41st Night ◎ 3-color Furikake*

NORIKO-CHAN SAID THAT SHE HAD A CHANCE ENCOUNTER JUST AFTER HER RENDEZVOUS WITH A MAN IN A RED PORSCHE.

HAIR

COIN: 500 YEN

SFX: CLINKING

*T/N: FURIKAKE IS A TYPE OF CONDIMENT THAT ONE ADDS TO RICE JUST BEFORE EATING. THEY ARE POWDERY/ FLAKY MIXTURES OF DRIED INGREDIENTS LIKE SESAME SEEDS, SEAWEED SLIVERS, AND DRIED FISH FLAKES. 3-COLOR SIMPLY REFERS TO THERE BEING 3 DIFFERENT MIXTURES (AND THUS, DIFFERENT FLAVORS AND COLORS) OF FURIKAKE HAVING BEEN PACKAGED TOGETHER FOR CONVENIENCE (BUT KEPT SEPARATELY).

WELL, HE TRIED BEING COOL ABOUT IT...

AND THEN?

IN THAT CASE, WANNA GO GRAB A DRINK? MY TREAT.

AH, YEAH...

HERE. GETTING A BEER?

EH...

SOME RICE, PLEASE.

AND AT THAT POINT, NORI-CHAN DRAINED HER COLD SAKE IN A SINGLE GULP.

THEN I BRING OUT A LITTLE SOMETHING...

FIRST, I LIGHTLY FILL UP A RICE BOWL.

I TAKE IT OUT AND PLACE IT IN FRONT OF HER.

A CONTAINER OF 3-COLOR FURIKAKE THAT NORI-CHAN ARBITRARILY LEFT IN MY SHOP A FEW YEARS BACK AND WHICH I'VE BEEN HOLDING ON TO LIKE A RESERVED BOTTLE*.

*T/N: LITERALLY CALLED "BOTTLE-KEEP". REFERS TO WHEN PATRONS AT A DRINKING ESTABLISHMENT BUY A BOTTLE WHICH IS THEN KEPT ON-SITE AND CONSUMED OVER SUBSEQUENT VISITS.

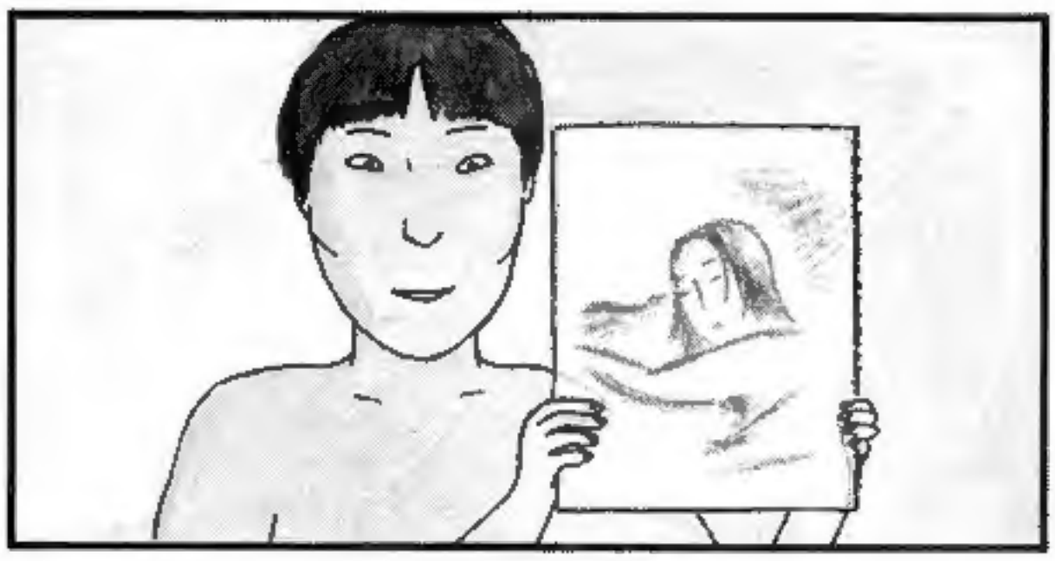
LABEL: NORITAMA**

THAT WOULD MAKE HIM NORI-CHAN'S THIRD CONCURRENT LOVER.

HUH.

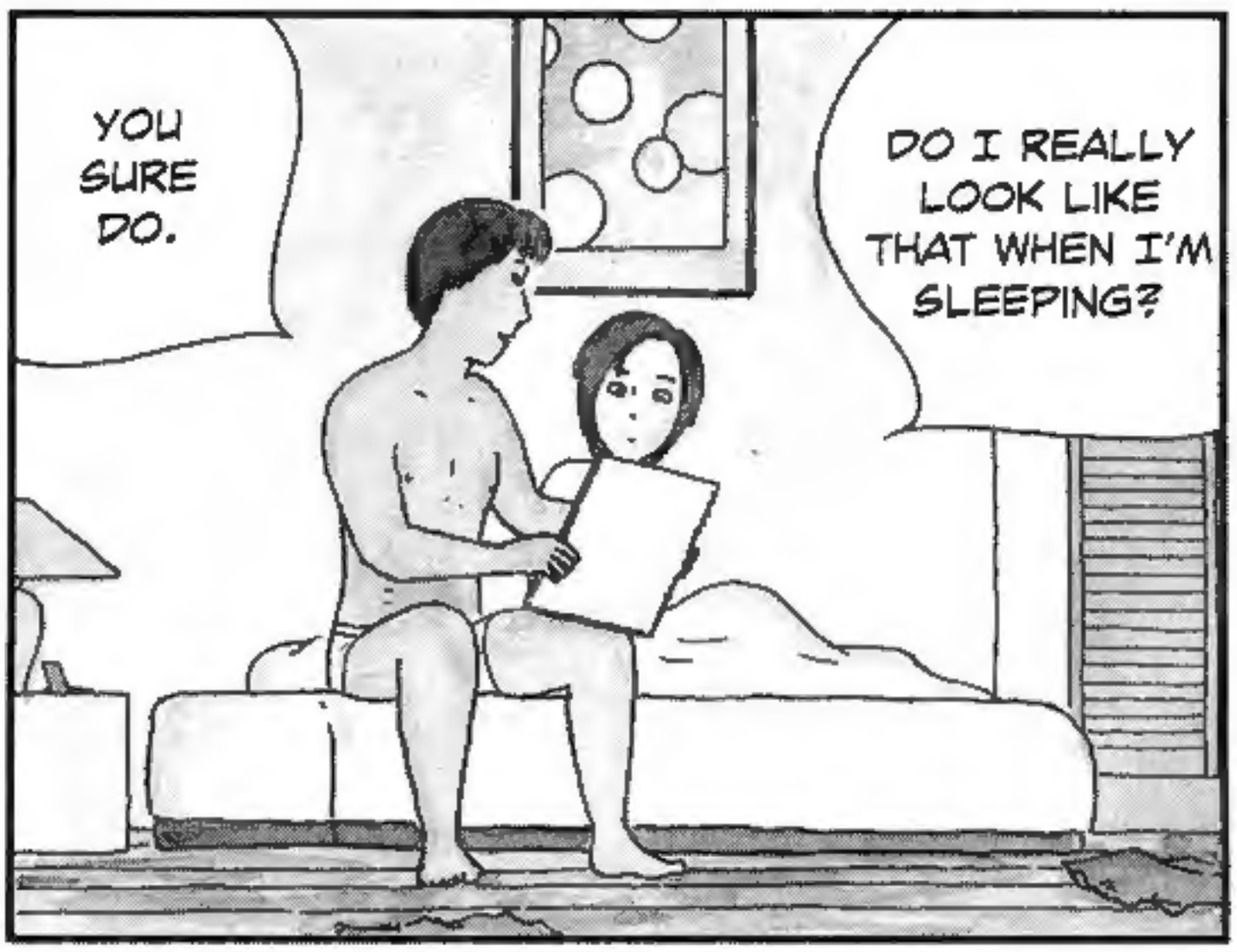
HIS NAME'S NORIO-KUN AND HE'S ATTENDING AN ART UNIVERSITY. HE'S ONLY 21 YEARS OLD!

**T/N: "NORI" AS IN TOASTED SEAWEED, AND "TAMA" AS IN EGG (TAMAGO). A COMBINATION OF FAINTLY SWEET, EGG FLAVORED GRANULES AND FRAGRANT, SHREDDED SEAWEED (ALONG WITH OTHER INGREDIENTS). "NORITAMA" IS ACTUALLY A TRADEMARK OF MARUMIYA CORP AND COMPETING FLAVORS HAVE NAMES LIKE "NORITAMAGO" OR "TAMAGO".



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

NO WAY, THAT IS —


YOU SURE DO.
DO I REALLY LOOK LIKE THAT WHEN I'M SLEEPING?

SIGN: IN USE

3
meeting room

NORIO...

RIGHT, THANKS.

VERY WELL, WE'LL SET UP A COMPARATIVE REVIEW WITH THIS CONCEPT IN MIND.

I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR THAT. BUT, AT LEAST I'M DONE FOR TODAY.

NORI-CHAN, LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE VERY BUSY THESE DAYS.

HAA...

BAR ROY

THERE'S A CHANCE I'M GOING TO BE TRANSFERRED ELSEWHERE.

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SEEM A BIT DOWN.

I'VE AN IDEA. WHY DON'T WE GO TO HAKONE* DURING THE UP-COMING STRETCH OF HOLIDAYS? IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE GONE.

...

...I SEE. EMPLOYEES OF BIG COMPANIES HAVE IT TOUGH TOO, I SEE.

REALLY!? THAT SOUNDS GREAT!!

YEAH...

KURO-TAMAGO? DID YOU GO TO HAKONE*?

HERE YOU GO, MASTER. IT'S A SOUVENIR.

*T/N: A HUGELY POPULAR DESTINATION FOR HOT SPRING GETAWAYS. A LOCAL SPECIALTY ARE "KURO-TAMAGO" (LIT. BLACK EGGS) WHICH ARE EGGS THAT HAVE BEEN BOILED IN SULFUROUS HOT SPRINGS. EATING AN EGG IS SAID TO ADD SEVEN YEARS TO ONE'S LIFE.

LABEL: GOMASHIO*

...

MEN SURE ARE HOPELESS. WHEN THEIR SELF-CONFIDENCE IS GONE, THAT BIT ALSO BECOMES TOTALLY WEAK...

And now we bring you Akanishi's MVP interview.

Has he done it!? Yes, it's out of the park!! Pinch-hitter Akanishi hits a dramatic, three-run, comeback homer!

SFX: CHEERING

THAT'S JUST LIKE SHIN-CHAN. HE ALWAYS COMES THROUGH WHEN THE TIME COMES. I'LL HAVE TO GIVE HIM A NICE REWARD WHEN HE'S BACK IN TOWN.

Well, sometimes you just gotta go out with a bang.

That was simply incredible. I had goose bumps all over!

YOKOHAMA

*T/N: SESAME SEEDS (GOMA) AND SALT (SHIO). SESAME SEEDS (TYPICALLY BLACK) ARE TOASTED AND THEN MIXED WITH GRANULAR SALT (WHICH MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN ROASTED). UNLIKE NORITAMA, THESE ARE OFTEN THE ONLY INGREDIENTS INVOLVED. "GOMASHIO" IS ALSO USED TO DESCRIBED HAIR THE SAME WAY "SALT AND PEPPER" IS USED IN ENGLISH.

...WOULD APPEAR TO BE AKANISHI.

THE "MAN IN A RED PORSCHE"...

IT SEEMS THAT...

LABEL: TARAKO*

SURE.

WANT A BEER?

SFX: DING DONG~

T/N: SALTED ALASKA POLLOCK ROE. THE RESULTING FURIKAKE HAS A SAVORY FLAVOR AND IS RED/PINK IN COLOR. LIKE NORITAMA, IT'S MADE UP OF VARIOUS OTHER INGREDIENTS AS WELL; E.G. SEAWEED, SESAME SEEDS, KELP.

I'M SORRY, BUT WOULD YOU JUST LEAVE FOR TODAY?

...

WHAT IS IT?

I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE!!

HEY, HOLD IT!

MEN ARE JUST WAY TOO SIMPLE.

...WHAT FOLLOWED WAS A COMPLETE MESS.

WHY DO I HAVE TO CHOOSE!?

NORIKO, WHO DO YOU PREFER!?

SFX: CLATTER

ガラッ

OHO, SHIONO-SAN. LONG TIME NO SEE.

HERE, THANKS FOR WAITING.

SHEESH...

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GO-MA-SHI-O*, THAT IS.

HMM?

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALWAYS THE ONLY ONE LEFT IN THE END...

T/N: INCIDENTALLY, THE "SHIO" IN SHIONO'S NAME IS THE SAME AS THAT FOR "SALT", WHILE THE "AKA" IN AKANISHI'S NAME MEANS "RED".